during the last one year. These projects were received earlier from Govt, of Orissa for clearance.

| SI. No | Name of Project | Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores) | Ultimate Irrigation Potential (thousand hectares) |
|---|---|---|---|
| (I) | (2) | (3) | *(*)* |
| | MAJOR | | |
| 1. | Subernarekha Irrigation Project. MEDIUM | 790.32 | 187.46 |
| 2. | Bagh Barrage | 44.71 | 12.36 |
| 3, | Baghalati | 45.44 | 6.05 |

**Safety of Indians in Afghanistan**

*188. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians settled in Afghanistan are being forced to leave that country and are being looted and their houses ransacked;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Indians have already left that country and have taken shelter here as refugees and many more are on verge of leaving Afghanistan fearing looting and ransacking;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government to ensure safety of Indians in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI IK. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) We have seen a press report stating that people of Indian origin have been subjected to harassment in the recent past and that some have left, but have not received any corroborative report on the subject from other sources. We remain vigilant and are prepared to extend all required assistance to Indians in Afghanistan.

**Proposal for Upgradation of National Highways**

*189. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for 22 roads totalling 6412 kms. were sent to Government for urgradation of National Highways;

(b) if so, whether Government have not so far sanctioned the remaining proposals for upgradtion of States Highways to Natioanal Highways;

(c) if so, the number of State Highways to be converted into NH during 1996-97;

(d) whether Government have decided to allow some of the State Highways of Andhra Pradesh for conversion to National Highways to private sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the proposals of the State Government have been accepted, if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. B. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Members have in mind the State of Andhra Pradesh for upgradation of state roads into National Highways. Nine proposals aggregating to length of about 4000 kms. for upgrading roads to National Highways were received for the State of Andhra Pradesh during 8th Plan.

(b) A length of 362 Kms. (Kurnool-Chittoor Road) in the State of Andhra Pradesh has been added to -National Highway network during 8th Plan.

(c) Due to resrouce constraints, there is no proposal to convert any State Highway into National Highway during 1996-97.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.